



WHAT ARE SATURATION PATROLS?

Saturation patrols are legal in all 50 states and are very concentrated enforcement efforts that target impaired drivers by observing moving violations such as reckless driving, speeding and aggressive driving. Motorists and motorcyclists are evaluated on an individual basis because certain behaviors have been demonstrated to law enforcement officers while the vehicle is in motion. Well-publicized saturation patrols educate the general driving public that breaking traffic laws is a serious problem and those violators will be punished.

WHAT ARE SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS?

At sobriety checkpoints, law enforcement officials evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment at certain points on the roadway. Vehicles are stopped in a specific sequence, such as every other vehicle or every fourth, fifth or sixth vehicle. The frequency with which vehicles are stopped depends on the personnel available to staff the checkpoint and traffic congestion.

Well-publicized checkpoint programs educate both those who pass through the checkpoint and the general public that impaired drivers will be caught.

ARE SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS LEGAL?

In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of sobriety checkpoints in *Michigan v. Sitz*. The court ruled that the interest in reducing the incidence of impaired driving was sufficient to justify the brief intrusion caused by a properly conducted sobriety checkpoint. If conducted properly, sobriety checkpoints do not constitute an illegal search and seizure in most States.

Thirty-nine States and the District of Columbia can legally conduct sobriety checkpoints. The use of sobriety checkpoints as a deterrent is restricted or prohibited in the following States: Alaska, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Wisconsin, Washington and Wyoming.

WHO FAVORS SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS AND SATURATION PATROLS?

Surveys indicate that 75 percent of Americans favor the use of sobriety checkpoints as a law enforcement tool. The International Association of Chiefs of Police, Operation C.A.R.E. and the National Sheriffs' Association favor them. Citizen groups, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID), Students Against Destructive Decisions, and Citizens Against Drug Impaired Drivers (C.A.N.D.I.D.), strongly favor their use. Private groups, such as the Nationwide Insurance and the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, have advocated their increased use for a number of years. Federal agencies, such as the National Transportation Safety Board and NHTSA, also strongly favor their use.

WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS ABOUT SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS?

Some people think that sobriety checkpoints cause traffic jams and detain people for extended periods. Well-conducted, well-planned checkpoints delay drivers no more than a few minutes, or the length of an average traffic signal. Some think that checkpoints are costly, time-consuming and labor intensive; however, small-scale checkpoints can be conducted with as few as three to five officers. Typically, checkpoints use 10 to 12 officers. Officer safety should be a consideration when conducting checkpoints.

FACT SHEET

WHY DO WE NEED SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT AND SATURATION PATROL PROGRAMS?

An impaired driver can be on the road as many as 772 times before getting caught and being arrested. Seasonal increases in alcohol and drug use help law enforcement agencies target their enforcement efforts. Sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols provide law enforcement officials with effective tools for removing impaired drivers from roads and highways.

WHAT MAKES SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS AND SATURATION PATROLS SO EFFECTIVE?

Sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols help law enforcement officials detect and arrest impaired drivers. They also are a deterrent to people who might choose to drive impaired by increasing the risk of arrest when the checkpoints and patrols are properly publicized.

WHERE AND WHEN ARE THE BEST TIMES TO RUN SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS?

Sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols are generally conducted on weekend nights at locations where the incidence of impaired driving is high, according to arrest and crash records. However, sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols can be conducted at other times and places.

HOW DO I SET UP A SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT IN MY COMMUNITY?

NHTSA has guidelines on how to conduct checkpoints in a safe and legal manner. For more information, materials can be ordered through NHTSA's web site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov. Sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols should

be part of a community's ongoing impaired driving prevention program and/or Safe Communities program. Your department may already have a policy.

THE YOU DRINK & DRIVE. YOU LOSE. CAMPAIGN GUIDEBOOK

The guidebook was created to provide partners with step-by-step suggestions on planning and coordinating highly visible campaign activities, such as saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints. The guidebook also addresses such issues as site selection, warning devices (signage, for example), detection techniques, arrest holding areas and chemical testing logistics. The Guidebook is designed for year-round use and contains sections on Building Partnerships, Publicity and Promotions, Timelines, Available Resources and Training Courses. It also contains samples for proclamations, letters of support, checklist for conducting town hall meetings, evaluation questionnaires, and provides case law summaries and fact sheets. The Guidebook is updated periodically.

NEW MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EACH MOBILIZATION

For every Fourth of July and December mobilization, criminal justice and traffic safety partners are provided new media toolkit supplements. Each new media toolkit provides suggestions on news hooks and sample press releases, Op Ed articles and talking points. It also contains posters, artwork, logo sheets and fact sheets.

For more information on impaired driving and resources to help you in your efforts, visit the NHTSA web site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.



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Saturation patrols are legal in all 50 states and are very concentrated enforcement efforts that target impaired drivers by observing moving violations such as reckless driving, speeding, aggressive driving, and others. Motorists and motorcyclists are evaluated on an individual basis because certain behaviors have been displayed to law enforcement officers while the vehicle is in motion. Well-publicized saturation patrols educate the general driving public that breaking traffic laws is a serious problem and those violators will be punished.

PLANNING A SATURATION PATROL

As with sobriety checkpoints, effective saturation patrols require careful planning. For enforcement agencies conducting their first saturation patrol, you should begin with a small-scale enforcement project. Eventually, larger enforcement projects can be explored as you gain experience. But whether the saturation patrol is large-scale or narrowly focused, there is one important key for success: soliciting ideas from participating agencies. By sharing ideas, suggestions and solutions, program participants can sustain a high level of motivation and assist in streamlining the overall operation of the saturation patrol.

Consider these areas when planning a saturation patrol:

- Enlist prosecutors and judicial officials to join the campaign to present a unified voice.
- Notify local prosecuting attorney(s) regarding your plans to conduct a saturation patrol.
- Alert area courts, juvenile and jail authorities about your plans so that additional staff can be assigned, if necessary.

- Invite these offices to help plan the saturation patrols.
- Ask these local partners for ideas on streamlining arrest and booking procedures.

JURISDICTION REVIEW AND MUTUAL AID

- Consider jurisdiction issues and boundaries for saturation patrols involving multiple law enforcement agencies. Provide court boundary maps to each participating officer.
- Specify geographic areas for saturation patrol. Saturation patrols cover a broader area than checkpoints.
- Consult Mutual Aid Agreements drafted to support these activities.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Establish a command post to coordinate operations and process suspects. Possible command posts include law enforcement facilities, churches or public buildings. Mobile Processing Units can be used to house operations.
- Saturation patrols are perfectly legal if held under rules governing regular patrols but they focus on impaired driving.
- Warning devices are not required for saturation patrols.
- Designate a testing or detention facility to hold and process impaired driving suspects. The detention facility should be highly visible to the media, easily accessible for processing suspects and large enough to stock necessary supplies.
- Give briefings to all participating personnel regarding proper procedures at the beginning of every saturation patrol.
- If available, contact Reserve or Auxiliary Officers to assist with saturation patrols.
- Consult State Departments of Alcohol Beverage Control

FACT SHEET

- Consult your state's department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) for insight into locations that have high alcohol consumption and impaired driving incidents.
- ABC may also provide information on underage impaired driving enforcement.
- Appoint a Public Information Officer
- A knowledgeable Public Information Officer should be appointed to work with the media.
- Determine which materials should be distributed to the public and to violators.
- The overall effectiveness of a saturation patrol is greatly enhanced by increased publicity. A saturation patrol's success is largely determined by the number of drivers who are deterred from getting behind the wheel after drinking or taking drugs.
- The Public Information Officer may employ the assistance of volunteers for distribution of media materials.

FUNDING

- The majority of costs incurred from planning and conducting a saturation patrol should not extend beyond normal salary and benefits associated with daily law enforcement operations.
- Large jurisdictions may plan and operate saturation patrols independently; however, smaller agencies and jurisdictions can partner with other local or state law enforcement agencies to conduct a multi-jurisdictional saturation patrol.
- Other funding options may be explored as the saturation patrol program develops, such as State Highway Safety Offices, foundations, other traffic safety groups and the private sector.

TRAINING

- Verify that participating officers are skilled in visual detection cues for impaired drivers and motorcycle riders.
- Officers assigned to the patrol should fully understand SFST and be trained in D.U.I. detection.
- Officers serving as drug recognition experts (DRE) should be present during saturation patrols. Information regarding SFST and the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is available through State Highway Safety Offices, NHTSA Regional Offices and the IACP.
- Reinforce to law enforcement that the commitment supports their efforts.
- Remember that it costs more to prosecute a repeat offender than to prosecute a murderer.

CRIME LAB TECHNICIANS

- Notify employees involved with chemical testing procedures of a potential increase in breath testing and instrument calibrations.
- Alert lab personnel regarding a potential increase in blood and urine samples submitted for alcohol and drug analysis.

SUPPORT RESOURCES

- Display reflective placards identifying the enforcement project. Placards can be placed on the sides of patrol vehicles and at processing centers.
- Placards increase the public perception of the risks associated with driving while impaired.

WARRANT SERVICE

- Assign officers to the enforcement and execution of outstanding warrants for alcohol- and drug-related offenses.



- Alert the media about the results of your efforts so they can inform the public that people can't dismiss impaired driving as merely a traffic offense.

CONSIDER YOUTH ENFORCEMENT

- Every State and the District of Columbia has a 21-year-old minimum drinking age law.
- The majority of impaired driving crashes involving teens occur during weekends.
- Coordinate with school districts to alert teen drivers about the mobilization.

SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT

- The best defense against an impaired driver is a seat belt.
- Seat belt usage generally increases when enforced as part of mobilization activities.
- Use this strategy to help generate media interest in saturation patrols and public safety activities and increase belt use.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION

- Ensure that proper paperwork is correctly routed to the assigned prosecuting attorney and court.

- Coordinate with criminal justice partners to streamline the process and ensure records systems are updated and accurate.

EVALUATION

- Conduct a debriefing at the conclusion of each saturation patrol operation. The debriefing should include all personnel involved in the operation, such as officers, supervisors, administrative personnel, media relations representatives, communications officers, jail staff and transportation officers.
- Collect data regarding the number of agencies involved, number of patrol cars, and the number of arrests made, including the type of arrests and number of DRE evaluations.
- Review enforcement and prosecution statistics, media and public responses, and critique the entire operation.
- Evaluate planning phases, site selection and securing of the command post for overall effectiveness. Solicit ideas and suggestions from all personnel involved in the operation.
- Prepare a final report following the debriefing. Summarize all recommendations for improvement so this information can benefit future operations.



Radio stations are required to broadcast public service announcements to the community. Use this to your advantage by providing local stations with scripts provided in the back pocket of this booklet. You should accompany the scripts with a letter explaining the problem of impaired driving in your community and ask for the station's support in helping to solve it. Suggest that traffic reporters remind listeners about the *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.* message and about increased enforcement activities in your community. It is a good idea to follow-up the letter with a phone call to the station to ensure they received the scripts, and to encourage their use.

RADIO SCRIPTS

30 SECOND GENERAL PSA/STATION READ

Drunk driving is no accident. It's a serious crime that kills every 33 minutes. Designate a driver, take a taxicab or mass transit or local law enforcement will provide you a ride to jail. **[INSERT STATION NAME/CALL LETTERS]** wants you to know that law enforcement will be out this holiday weekend conducting rolling saturation patrols to arrest impaired drivers and to make our streets and highways safer for all of us. This holiday season, please celebrate responsibly and don't take a chance because chances are you will be caught. The choice is yours – designate a sober driver or one will be appointed for you. Remember: *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*

:15 SECOND HOLIDAY STATION READ – ALCOHOL

Not sure if you've had too much to drink? Then don't drive. Impairment starts with the first drink, whether you feel it or not. Drunk driving is no accident. It's a deadly crime. **[INSERT STATION NAME HERE]** supports saturation patrols because they protect us from drunk drivers. The choice is yours –

designate a sober driver or one will be appointed for you ... straight to jail. Remember: *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*

THE CHOICE IS YOURS: YOU DRINK & DRIVE. YOU LOSE.

30 SECOND HOLIDAY STATION READ – ALCOHOL

Drunk driving is no accident. It's a deadly crime. One person dies every 33 minutes because of an impaired driver. This weekend, law enforcement will be out in full force to arrest impaired drivers before they hurt or kill someone. **[INSERT STATION NAME HERE]** supports this effort. Please celebrate responsibly and don't take a chance because chances are you will be caught. The choice is yours – designate a sober driver or one will be appointed for you ... straight to jail. Remember: *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*

:15 SECOND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY STATION READ - DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

So, you think impaired driving isn't a big problem? Think again. Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a serious crime that kills. **[INSERT STATION NAME HERE]** reminds you law enforcement is mobilizing against impaired drivers this weekend. Please celebrate responsibly and don't take a chance because chances are you will be caught. The choice is yours – designate a sober driver or one will be appointed for you. Remember: *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*

THE CHOICE IS YOURS: YOU DRINK & DRIVE. YOU LOSE.

:30 SECOND HOLIDAY SEASON STATION READ - DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

So, you think impaired driving isn't a big deal? You're wrong - dead wrong. Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a serious crime.



So, if you're under the influence, don't drive.
[INSERT STATION NAME HERE] wants you to know that law enforcement is mobilizing this weekend to arrest impaired drivers and to keep the roads safe for everyone enjoying the holiday.

Please celebrate responsibly and don't take a chance because chances are you will be caught. The choice is yours – designate a sober driver or one will be appointed for you ... straight to jail. Remember: *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*



You Drink & Drive. You Lose. was developed as the voice of an energized criminal justice partnership aimed at intensifying the fight against impaired driving – a crime that kills every 33 minutes. The campaign's national partners include the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort), National District Attorney Association, National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, National Judicial College and the National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives.

IMPAIRED DRIVING IS NOT AN ACCIDENT – IT'S A DEADLY CRIME

We have come to a crossroad in our efforts to prevent this deadly crime. If we're to make significant declines in the number of alcohol- and drug-related, we must all do more to further change the perception of impaired driving as merely a traffic offense to that of a deadly crime that will no longer be tolerated and has severe personal consequences.

IT TAKES A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM APPROACH

Although every year 1.5 million impaired drivers are arrested, only one arrest is made for every 772 occurrences of driving under the influence of alcohol. As a result one in three Americans will be affected by this violent crime in their lifetime. The key to reversing this alarming trend is taking a systematic approach that includes highly visible and coordinated efforts by law enforcement, prosecutors, judicial officials and traffic safety partners, each doing their part, to protect citizens from impaired drivers.

MOBILIZING AMERICA TO STOP IMPAIRED DRIVING

Criminal justice partners conduct campaign mobilizations twice a year – July and December. Why mobilize? Because it works. Conducting saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints are proven strategies that reduce impaired driving. A national wave of highly visible enforcement from small towns to major metropolitan areas, combined with unified public information, puts offenders on notice that their actions are not only serious, but also criminal and violators will be punished.

THERE IS NO DEBATE — AMERICANS SUPPORT GETTING TOUGH ON IMPAIRED DRIVERS

Impaired driving is no accident. Impaired drivers are reckless criminals that injure innocent victims every two minutes. Studies show that the majority of Americans consider driving impaired one of our nation's most important social issues, ahead of healthcare, poverty/hunger, racism and education. Nearly 97 percent of Americans view impaired driving by others as a major threat to themselves and their families. As a result, the majority of Americans support increased use of saturation patrols and checkpoints to ensure their safety.

YOU CAN STOP IMPAIRED DRIVING. HERE'S HOW...

You Drink & Drive. You Lose. provides the framework for a comprehensive impaired driving prevention program. Partners gain access to best practices and guidance on how to implement programs that extend beyond traditional efforts, emphasizing that there is no single solution to the national challenge.

Reducing the death toll to 11,000 by 2005 represents a national commitment from a variety



of partners. But to reach our goal we must begin at the community level. You're holding the keys to success. Your commitment to participate in the You Drink & Drive. You Lose. campaign is a pledge to make America's roadways and communities safer by intensifying efforts to fight impaired driving. By joining the national effort, you will have an opportunity to make a difference in your community by:

- Partnering with the media to raise awareness of the deadly consequences of impaired driving and motorcycling
- Building and expanding partnerships among local and state organizations and Safe Communities coalitions
- Organizing community support for criminal justice efforts
- Enforcing existing laws through active enforcement programs
- Working with youth safety organizations to stop underage drinking and impaired driving

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